Research Notes for Charles Patrick McEvoy (1841 - 1907)

Research Overview:

Charles Patrick McEvoy was born in Canada and spent his early life moving between countries, occupations, and households, with little sustained stability visible in the record. His childhood unfolded in Montreal, followed by a family migration to the United States while several siblings were still young. The family's early years in Michigan are marked by gaps in census enumeration, frequent relocations, and the death of his father while Charles was still a teenager.

Charles married Nellie Emperor in New York, served in the Civil War, and fathered many children, only two of whom survived into adulthood. The record of his family life is uneven and often tragic: most of Charles and Nellie's children were born and died within short spans, during periods when the family was also moving across state lines. Infants appear briefly in the record and disappear, children are born in different states, and long stretches pass where the family is absent from expected census records. These years suggest continued movement, instability, and chaos.

As Charles aged, he appeared most consistently in institutional records—military service files, pension applications, and soldiers' home admissions—his daughter Mary Ellen was involved in securing assistance. In later life, pension records, soldiers' home files, and obituaries show that his final years were marked by poor health, financial need, and reliance on his daughter.

Speculative Narrative:

Intentionally left blank.

Timeline

18 Aug 1841 - Birth at Montreal, Quebec, Canada.[1]

1842 - Birth of sister Honorah McEvoy (1842 - 1904) at Montreal, Quebec, Canada.[2]

1844 - Birth of brother John McEvoy (1844 - 1926) at Montreal, Quebec, Canada.[3]

1846 - Birth of sister Jane McEvoy (1846 -) at Montreal, Quebec, Canada.[4]

1847 - Birth of brother Thomas McEvoy (1847 - 1865) at Montreal, Quebec, Canada.[5]

1849 - Birth of brother Hugh McEvoy (1849 -) at Montreal, Quebec, Canada.[6]

[1] Canadian baptism record

[2] Canadian baptism record for sister Honorah McEvoy

[3] Canadian baptism record for brother John McEvoy

[4] Canadian baptism record for sister Jane McEvoy

[5] Canadian baptism record for sister Thomas McEvoy

[6] Canadian baptism record for brother Hugh McEvoy

1850 - Birth of brother James H McEvoy (1850 - 1908) at Montreal, Quebec, Canada.[7]

1851 - Canada Census.

Canada Census not identified; no apparent household match located.

1853 - Birth of brother Alfred J McEvoy (1853 - 1907) at Michigan.[8]

1853 - Arrival from Canada.[9]

Port of entry and accompanying family members not identified.

7 Oct 1857 - Death of father John Patrick McEvoy (1806 - 1857) at Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo, Michigan.[10]

1860 - US Census in Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo, Michigan.[11]

Catherin McAvoy, 46

Patrick McAvoy, 19

John McAvoy

Thomas McAvoy, 13

James McAvoy, 11

Alfred McAvoy, 8

[7] Canadian baptism record for brother James McEvoy

[8] Canadian baptism record for brother Alfred McEvoy

[9] Immigration record

[10] Death of father John Patrick McEvoy

[11] "United States Census, 1860", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MW6W-7B2: Mon Jul 08 10:38:54 UTC 2024), Entry for Catheine Mc Avoy and Patrick Mc Avoy, 1860.

16 Aug 1865 - Marriage to Nellie Emperor in Corning, Steuben, New York.[12]

Charles P. McEvoy and Nellie (Helen) Emperor were married on 16 August 1865. Charles was the son of John McEvoy, and Nellie was the daughter of Thomas Emperor and Mary Hogan. The marriage record identifies Charles's father as John McEvoy.

Information in Charles McEvoy's Civil War pension file conflicts with the marriage record regarding the year of the marriage. In the pension file, Charles reported that he and Nellie were married in 1861. While the day and month of the marriage match the civil record, the year does not. This discrepancy suggests either an error in recollection or a deliberate misstatement when reporting the marriage to the Pension Office, possibly to place the marriage before Charles's Civil War service.

The marriage and death records differ in how Charles's father is named. Charles's death record identifies his father as Patrick McEvoy, while the marriage record gives the name John McEvoy. His father's full name was John Patrick McEvoy, with different records using different parts of his name.

The timing of the marriage is notable in relation to Charles's military service. According to his pension file, Charles mustered out of service on 4 July (or possibly 10 July) 1865 at Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. He married Nellie on 16 August 1865, slightly more than a month later, in New York. This sequence implies significant travel—more than eight hundred miles—between his discharge from service and his marriage.

9 May 1864 - Military.[13]

US Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles - Company E 157th Regiment New York Infantry.

[12] Marriage Record

[13] Military Record

Military listing for Charles P. McEvoy, who enlisted at age 27 on 21 August 1864 in Company E, 157th New York Infantry. He mustered out as a private on 10 July 1865. In military records, he also appears under the name Charles P. McAvoy**.**

4 July 1865 - Military.[14]

Charles was discharged (mustered out) of the 157th NY infantry; discharge papers were destroyed by fire.

1865 - Death of brother Thomas McEvoy (1847 - 1865**)** at Michigan.[15]

Jan 1867 - Birth of daughter Catherine "Kitty" McEvoy (1867 - 1869) at Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo, Michigan. [16]

8 Mar 1869 - Death of daughter Catherine "Kitty" McEvoy (1867 - 1869) at Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo, Michigan. [17,]

2 years and two months old, died of pneumonia. The date of the record is June 1, 1870.

10 Oct 1869 - Birth of daughter Cora Irene McEvoy (1869 -) in Michigan. [18] The date of the record is June 11, 1870.

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[14] Military Record

[15] Death of brother Thomas McEvoy

[16] "Michigan Deaths, 1867-1897", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:N3D5-VXF: Sat Mar 09 21:42:57 UTC 2024), Entry for Kittie McAvoy and Charles P. McAvoy, 08 Mar 1869.

[17] "Michigan Deaths, 1867-1897", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:N3D5-VXF: Sat Mar 09 21:42:57 UTC 2024), Entry for Kittie McAvoy and Charles P. McAvoy, 08 Mar 1869.

[18] "Michigan Births and Christenings, 1775-1995", database, *FamilySearch* (https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XX7Z-VJN: 17 January 2020), Charles McAvoy in the entry for Cora Irene McAvoy, 1869.

Cora Irene McEvoy has a birth record filed in Kalamazoo County, Michigan, recorded on June 11, 1870; however, her birth is reported as having occurred in October 1869 in Ohio. Her sister Catherine ("Kittie") McEvoy had died just six months earlier. Kittie's death certificate indicates that she was both born and died in Kalamazoo. This sequence creates a discrepancy with the family's documented residence in Kalamazoo both before and after this period. Possible explanations include a temporary relocation to Ohio or a short stay with extended family there in late 1869, followed by a return to Kalamazoo by June 1870.

1869 - Birth of son John "Johnnie" McEvoy (1869 -) in Ohio. [19]

1869 - Death of daughter Cora Irene McEvoy (1869 - 1871) in Ohio.[20]

1870 - U.S. Census, Census not identified; family not located.

The family may have been on the move during this census and not enumerated.

18 Nov 1872 – **Birth of daughter Mary Ellen McEvoy (1872 - 1935)** at Dowagiac, Cass, Michigan.[21]

Record created May 27, 1873

1875 -Death of son John "Johnnie" McEvoy (1869 - 1875) at an unknown place, probably in the US.[22]

[19] **Birth of son John "Johnnie" McEvoy**

[20] **Death of daughter Cora Irene McEvoy**

[21] "Michigan Births, 1867-1902", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NQNK-H9Q: Fri Mar 08 23:47:37 UTC 2024), Entry for Mary McEvoy and Charles McEvoy, 1872.

[22] Death of son John "Johnnie" McEvoy

1880 - U.S. Census not identified; location uncertain.

1882 City Directory - Charles first appears in the 1882–1883 city directory as the proprietor of "Our House," a hotel or boarding house, and is listed through the 1880s and into the 1890s. He does not appear in the city directories between 1888 and 1891. This absence may reflect a temporary departure from the city or the conditions under which directory entries were recorded, including possible payment requirements.

No subsequent business listings for Charles McEvoy have been identified.

11 Jul 1883 -Birth of son Edmond Eugene "Edward" McEvoy (1883 - 1906) at Grand Rapids, Kent, Michigan.[23] Date of Record May 19, 1884. A stillborn female was also born on this day.[24]

Edmond's birth on 11 July 1883 was not recorded until 19 May 1884, the same date a stillborn female was registered. The records do not clarify whether the two entries are related.

11 Jul 1885 - Birth and death of son Frederick McEvoy (1885 - 1885) at Grand Rapids, Kent, Michigan.[25]

8 Nov 1890 - Death of mother Catherine Flaherty (1813 - 1890) at Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo, Michigan. [26]

[23] "Michigan Births, 1867-1902", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NQNK-H9Q: Fri Mar 08 23:47:37 UTC 2024), Entry for Mary McEvoy and Charles McEvoy, 1872.

[24] Michigan, Births, 1867 - 1902, not named McEvoy, b.11 July 1885, record number 875. Family Search.

[25] Michigan, Births, 1867 - 1902, not named McEvoy, b.11 July 1885, record number 875. Family Search.

[26] **Death of mother Catherine Flaherty**

1890 – U.S. Veterans Census not identified.[27]

1900 US Census in Ada, Kent, Michigan[28]

Charles McEvoy - head of household, white, male, born ?, age 59, married x years, born Canada, parents born in Ireland

Nellie McEvoy - wife, white, female, born ?, age 53, mother of x children, 2 living, born Ireland, mother born in Ireland.

Eugene Edmond McEvoy - son, white, male, born ?, age 16, single, born Michigan, father born Canada, mother born in Michigan.

8 Jun 1891 - Civil War Pension Applications. Charles, then residing at 109 W. Bridge Street, Grand Rapids, Michigan, applied for a pension under the Act of June 27, 1890, but his application was rejected. Witnesses for this application were B. G. Ghirdler, who stated he had known Charles for 15 years, and John Gravy, who stated he had known Charles for 10 years; both men were residents of Grand Rapids.

In 1896, after being rejected for a pension on two previous occasions, Charles hired a lawyer in Grand Rapids, who requested written statements from the two individuals who had known Charles for the longest period of time.

20 Mar 1896 - John Emporer of 146 Butterworth Ave, Grand Rapids, Michigan, age 56 years, a Railroad Man who had been acquainted with Charles P McEvoy since 1867, provided a character reference; John Quigg of 44 Stocking St., age 51, a watchman who had been acquainted with Charles "since my childhood and we were playmates together and have known him more or less ever since" provided character reference.

[27] 1890 US Census

[28] "United States Census, 1900", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MSM5-WQP: Thu Jul 18 00:06:45 UTC 2024), Entry for Charles Mc Evoy and Nellie Mc Evoy, 1900.

7 Oct 1903—Charles applied for an increase in pension, which was increased to $10 (witnesses were Charles A. Staher and A.B. Bennett).

11 Aug 1906 -Death of son Edmond Eugene "Edward" McEvoy (1883 - 1906) at Chicago, Cook, Illinois.[29]

30 Jan 1904 - Death of wife Mary Ellen "Nellie" Emperor (1843 - 1904) at San Antonio, Bexar, Texas.[30]

6 Jun 1904 - Death of sister Honorah McVey (1842 - 1904) at Montreal City, Quebec, Canada.

8 May 1906 - admitted to the Milwaukee Soldier's Home Record at Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.[31]

The pension was transferred to the Milwaukee Pension Office on 15 May.

"Soldier's Home Record for Charles P. McEvoy. Charles enlisted on 21 August 1864 at Avon, NY, as a private in Co. E of the 157th N.Y. Infantry and mustered out on 10 July 1965 at Charleston, SC. Charles was born in Canada, was 64 years old, stood five feet eight inches, and had a florid complexion with grey hair and eyes. Charles could read and write, was Catholic by religion, worked as a Blacksmith, and lived in Grand Rapids, Michigan, following his discharge. Charles's nearest relative was his daughter, Mrs. S.J. Roach of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Charles was admitted on 8 May 1906 and discharged on 21 June 1906."

[29] "Illinois, Cook County Deaths, 1871-1998", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q2MQ-DN84: Sun Mar 10 23:07:55 UTC 2024), Entry for Eugene E McEvoy, 11 Aug 1906.

[30] State of Texas, Bexar County - Certificate #2785, Nellie Emperor McEvoy

[31] "United States National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VH4J-MLH: Sun Mar 10 08:32:50 UTC 2024), Entry for Charles P McEvoy, 1906.

21 Feb 1907 - Charles applied under the Act of February 6, 1907; Pension increased to $12 (witnesses were Joseph Brogger and Henry Koellner, both of Grand Rapids, Michigan**.**

5 July 1907 - Soldier's Home Record at Bath, Steuben, New York.[32]

Soldier's Home Record for Charles P. McEvoy [Bath, Steuben, New York]. Charles enlisted in 1863 as a private in Co. E of the 157th N.Y. Infantry and M.O. (mustered out) on 4 July 1865 at Charleston, SC. Charles was born in Canada, was 65 years old, stood five feet seven inches, had a fair complexion with blue eyes and grey hair. Charles was able to read and write, Catholic by religion, and worked as a Blacksmith. After his discharge, Charles lived in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Charles's nearest relative at the time was Mrs. Mary E. Roach of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Charles was admitted on 5 July 1907 and discharged on 10 February 1908.

24 Oct 1907 - Death at Canonsburg, Kent, Michigan.[33]

25 Oct 1907 - Obituary

"McEvoy - At Cannonsburg, October 24, Charles McEvoy, age 66 years. Funeral Saturday morning at 8:30 from the residence of his daughter, Mrs. SJ Roach, 404 North Lafayette street, and St. Alphonsus church at 9 o'clock."

October 25, 1907

Oct 1907 -Burial at St. Andrews Cemetery in Grand Rapids, Kent, Michigan.[34]

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[32] U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938 Birth date: abt 1842 Birth place: Canada Residence date: 1907 Residence place: Bath, Steuben, New York, USA

[33] Michigan, Death Records, 1867-1950, Charles Patrick McEvoy

[34] "Find a Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVVY-DZK2: 13 June 2023), Charles Patrick McEvoy, ; Burial, Grand Rapids, Kent, Michigan, United States of America, Saint Andrews Catholic Cemetery; citing record ID 29117222, *Find a Grave*, http://www.findagrave.com.